

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00908 060312Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/066 W
-----006985 061906Z /47

R 060230Z APR 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0323
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SEDU CH
SUBJ: VISIT TO KAIFENG NORMAL INSTITUTE

REF: HONG KONG 4135

1. SUMMARY. THE KAIFENG NORMAL INSTITUTE HAS INSTITUTED EXAMINATIONS, AND HAS EXTENDED ITS COURSE FROM THREE TO FOUR YEARS. NEW EMPHASIS IS BEING GIVEN TO THE SUBSTANCE OF ITS COURSES, WHICH ARE INTENDED TO TEACH FUTURE TEACHERS IN HONAN'S MIDDLE SCHOOLS. END SUMMARY.

2. USLO OFFICER VISITED KAIFENG NORMAL INSTITUTE APRIL 2 AND WAS BRIEFED ON APPLICATION OF NEW POLICIES IN EDUCATION TO UNIVERSITY LEVEL STUDENTS. INSTITUTE BECAME A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE IN EARLY 1978 TRAINING HONAN MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATES TO TEACH IN HONAN MIDDLE SCHOOLS. THE CURRICULUM WAS EXTENDED FROM THREE TO FOUR YEARS BY ADDING A SENIOR CLASS WHICH WILL INCLUDE ELECTIVES, ADDITIONAL PRACTICE TEACHING AND ADDITIONAL SCIENCE FOR ARTS STUDENTS AND HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY FOR
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SCIENCE STUDENTS. THE SCHOOL IS DIVIDED INTO TEN DEPARTMENTS: CHINESE, POLITICAL EDUCATION, HISTORY, FOREIGN LANGUAGES, FINE ARTS, MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, GEOGRAPHY AND SPORTS. THE SCHOOL HAS ABOUT 3,000 STUDENTS AND A STAFF OF OVER 1,300. WITH THE ADDITION OF A FOURTH CLASS, THERE IS INSUFFICIENT DORMITORY SPACE, AND THE

INSTITUTE NOW HAS DAY STUDENTS FROM KAIFENG. THE LIBRARY HAS 1.1 MILLION VOLUMES, DIVIDED INTO BASIC AND ADVANCED SECTIONS. THE SCHOOL ALSO HAS A PRINT SHOP AND THE USUAL SCHOOL FARM AND SMALL FACTORIES.

3. ALTHOUGH PRACTICE TEACHING BEGINS IN THE NORMAL INSTITUTE'S OWN ATTACHED MIDDLE SCHOOL, FUTURE TEACHERS ALSO PRACTICE IN OTHER MIDDLE SCHOOLS UNDER DIRECTION OF "VETERAN TEACHERS."

4. A NEW EXAMINATION SYSTEM HAS BEEN INSTITUTED TO REPLACE THE OLD, WHICH CONSISTED ONLY OF A POLITICAL EXAMINATION. NOW ALL STUDENTS ARE EXAMINED IN POLITICAL AFFAIRS, CHINESE AND MATHEMATICS. IN ADDITION, SCIENCE STUDENTS TAKE EXAMINATIONS IN CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS AND ARTS STUDENTS TAKE GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY. SPECIALIZED STUDENTS, SUCH AS MUSIC OR FOREIGN LANGUAGES, TAKE EXAMINATIONS IN THEIR SPECIALITIES AS WELL. ALL THOSE EXAMINED ARE THE EQUIVALENT OF SENIOR MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATES, BUT A FEW SPECIALLY QUALIFIED JUNIOR MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATES WERE ADMITTED AFTER THE RECENT EXAMINATION. BEGINNING IN 1978, COURSES WILL BE TAUGHT IN EDUCATION METHODS AND MATERIALS.

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5. NO TEXTBOOKS HAVE YET BEEN APPROVED FOR THE SCHOOL'S CLASSES, AND EACH CLASS MAKES UP ITS OWN TEXT MATERIALS. SCIENCE TEXTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE APPROVED NATION-WIDE BY THE END OF 1978, BUT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE TEXTS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE LONGER.

6. NO STUDENTS WERE SEEN AT THE UNIVERSITY SINCE ALL WERE SAID TO BE IN A MASS MEETING AT THE TIME OF OUR VISIT. THE "RESPONSIBLE PERSON" WAS SPECIALIZED IN THE POLITICAL DIRECTION OF THE SCHOOL AND WAS HEARD TO SAY ON VISITING THE LIBRARY'S 19TH CENTURY COLLECTION OF CHINESE HISTORY, "I'VE NEVER SEEN THESE BEFORE." SHE WAS PROMPTED ON SEVERAL POINTS ON SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BY THOSE MORE DIRECTLY CONCERNED.
WOODCOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EDUCATION, TEACHERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PEKING00908
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780149-0468
Format: TEL
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780485/aaaacukq.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7b885cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 HONG KONG 4135
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3054025
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO KAIFENG NORMAL INSTITUTE
TAGS: SEDU, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7b885cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014